

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Anchorage Terminal Reserve, Anchorage, Alaska

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

January 2008

Environmental studies have been going on at the Anchorage Terminal Reserve Site. This 600-acre site near Ship Creek is owned by the Alaska Railroad Corporation. The site includes a rail yard and other properties leased to tenants. Some environmental problems have been documented. Below is a status report.

Site Investigation Nearly Done

The Alaska Railroad is completing an environmental study of the Anchorage Terminal Reserve Site. EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) is overseeing the work. Samples were collected throughout the site in 2005 and 2006. Scientists collected samples of surface water, sediments, soils, and groundwater.

The study also looked at the site's environmental conditions. For example, investigators located water supply wells. They studied the interactions of the tides and groundwater. They also mapped out areas with pavement, bare ground, or vegetation.

Complete findings of the study, called a **Remedial Investigation**, will be published in a report. The report will cover:

- contaminant pathways to Ship Creek
- the nature and extent of known and potential contamination sources; and
- potential risks to humans and the environment.

The study found a couple groundwater plumes of concern on the south side (the city side) of Ship Creek. On the north side of Ship Creek, investigators found some PCBs (poly-chlorinated biphenyls). Additionally, some areas of the railroad yard itself had contaminants such as benzene and petroleum hydrocarbons. The oil companies Chevron and Flint Hills have agreed to do risk assessment studies on the terminal they operate.

EPA and the Alaska Railroad will plan to host an open house in 2008 to share the more details about the study.

Next, the Alaska Railroad will do a **Feasibility Study**. That study will look at different options for cleaning up the site. Both the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will be made available for public review and comment in 2008.

Site Background

The federal government transferred the Alaska Railroad to the state-owned Alaska Railroad Corporation in 1985. The Alaska Railroad Corporation owns the property known as Anchorage Terminal Reserve. Anchorage Terminal Reserve includes a rail yard and other properties leased to tenants. The area covers about 600 acres. Much of the land is near Ship Creek, in an industrial area of Anchorage. It is bordered by Cook Inlet to the west, Elmendorf Air Force Base to the north, the Mountain View community to the east, and downtown Anchorage to the south.

The rail yard includes a track system, repair buildings, a fueling area, a steaming rack, warehouses, and offices. Activities at the rail yard have included fueling, painting, steam cleaning, freight loading, and maintenance work on locomotives and rail cars.

Properties outside the rail yard, leased to tenants, have been used for many different types of activities. These include power plants, trucking and transit operations, fuel storage, auto salvage, and many others.

Environmental problems have been documented at both the rail yard and the properties outside the rail yard. Concerns have included solid waste handling, hazardous waste storage, seeps to Ship Creek, spills, and elevated contaminant levels in soils, groundwater, and sediments. The contamination has the potential to pose a threat to human health or the environment.



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10, Community Involvement and Outreach
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

Pre-Sorted Standard
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35
Seattle, WA

*Environmental Fact Sheet
Anchorage Terminal Reserve
Anchorage, Alaska
January 2008*

For More Information

Documents

EPA maintains “information repositories” to give the public access to site documents (*see locations at right*). Documents that provide technical details about the site work include: Site Background Report, Remedial Action Objectives Technical Memorandum, and Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan. These documents, and others, can be found on the website below or at these locations:

Andrea Lindsay

Community Involvement Coordinator, Seattle
lindsay.andrea@epa.gov
206-553-1896 or 800-424-4372 x1896

Website

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

Click on *Index*. Click on *A* for *Anchorage Terminal Reserve*.

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services
University of Alaska, Anchorage Library Building
Anchorage Terminal Reserve Information Repository
3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-7547

EPA Region 10

Records Center, 7th Floor
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-1128
206-553-4494

Contacts

Jacques Gusmano

Superfund Project Manager, Anchorage
gusmano.jacques@epa.gov
907-271-1271

Howard Orlean

RCRA Project Manager, Seattle
orlean.howard@epa.gov
206-553-2851 or 800-424-4372 x2851



If you need materials in an alternative format, please call Andrea Lindsay for reasonable accommodation: 800-424-4372 x1896. TTY: 800-877-8339.